III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of preventing or reducing the degenerative effects on cartilaginoid matrix comprising administering to a subject with arthritis an effective amount of one or more compounds or salts thereof having the following formula:

$$A\text{-}(B)_{b0}\text{-}(C)_{c0}\text{-}N(O)_S \qquad (I)$$

wherein:

s is an integer and is equal to 1 or 2;

c0 is an integer and is equal to 0 or 1;

b0 is an integer and is 0 or 1; with the proviso that at least one of c0 and b0 is different from zero;

A = R-T_1-, wherein

R- is the radical of a non steroidal antiinflammatory precursor drug excluding the compounds having 2-oxo-1H-indolic structure, or the radical of a non steroidal antiinflammatory/analgesic drug;

T_1 = $(CO)_t$ or $(X)_{t'}$, wherein X = -O-, -S-, -N(R_{1C})-, R_{1C} is H or C_1-C_5 linear or branched alkyl, t and t' are integers and equal to zero or 1, with the proviso that t = 1 when t' = 0; t = 0 when t' = 1;

B = -T_B-X_2-T_{BI}- wherein

T_B and T_{BI} are equal or different;

T_B= (CO) when the reactive function in the precursor drug is -OH or –NH(R_{1C}); T_B = X, as above, when the reactive function in the precursor drug is -COOH;

T_{BI} = $(CO)_{tx}$ or $(X)_{txx}$, wherein tx and txx have the value of 0 or 1; with the proviso that tx = 1 when txx = 0, tx = 0 when txx = 1; X is as above;

X_2 is a bivalent linking group as defined below;

C is the bivalent radical -T_c-Y- wherein

when b0 = c0 = 1: T_C = (CO) when tx = 0, T_C = X when txx = 0, X being as above;

when b0 = 0: T_C = (CO) when t = 0, T_C = X when t' = 0, X being as above;

when c0 = 0: tx = 0, T_{BI} = X = -O- [[.]] ;

Y is:

Y_p:

$$\begin{array}{l} \quad R_{TIX} \quad\quad R_{TIIX} \\ \quad\quad | \quad\quad\quad | \\ - \quad -[C]_{nIX} - Y^3 - [C]_{nIIX}\text{-O-} \quad (III^P) \\ \quad\quad | \quad\quad\quad | \\ \quad R_{TIX'} \quad\quad R_{TIIX'} \end{array}$$

wherein:

nIX is an integer from 0 to 10;

nIIX is an integer from 1 to 10;

R_{TIX}, $R_{TIX'}$, R_{TIIX}, $R_{TIIX'}$, equal to or different from each other are H or C_1-C_4

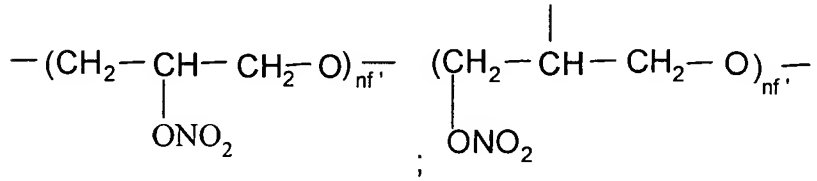
linear or branched alkyl;

Y^3 is a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic heterocyclic ring containing one or two nitrogen atoms having 5 or 6 atoms,

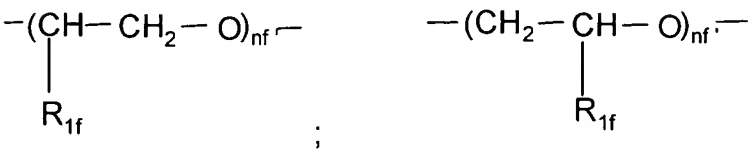
or Y can be:

Y_0, selected from the following:

- a –R'O– alkylenoxy group wherein R' is linear or branched when possible C_1-C_{20}, or a cycloalkylene having from 5 to 7 carbon atoms, in the cycloalkylene ring one or more carbon atoms can be substituted by heteroatoms, the ring can have side chains of R' type, R' being as above; or one of the following groups:

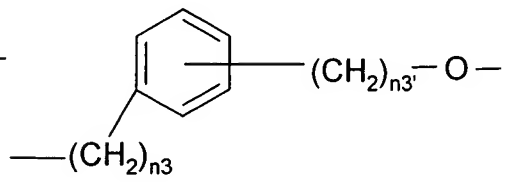
- 

wherein nf' is an integer from 1 to 6;

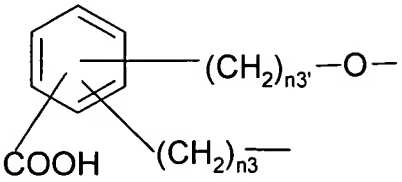
- 

wherein R_{1f} = H, CH_3 and nf' is an integer from 1 to 6;

or Y is Y_{Ar} and is selected from the following:

- 

wherein n3 is an integer from 0 to 3 and n3' is an integer from 1 to 3;



wherein n3 and n3' have the above meaning;

X_2, bivalent radical [[m]] is such that the corresponding precursor of B, $-T_B-X_2-T_{BI}-$ wherein the free valences of T_B and of T_{BI} are saturated each with OZ, with Z or with $-N(Z^I)(Z^{II})$, wherein Z = H [[,]] or C_1-C_{10} linear or branched alkyl, Z^I, Z^{II} equal or different have the Z values as above, depending on that T_B and/or T_{BI} = CO or X, in function of the values of t, t', tx and txx;

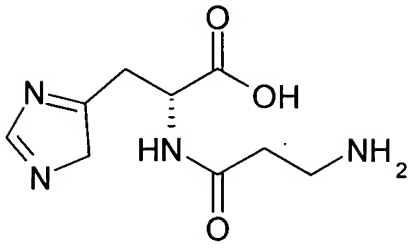
the precursor of B is selected from the following:

- aminoacids,
- hydroxyacids,
- aromatic and heterocyclic mono- and polyalchols,
- compounds containing at least one free acid function.

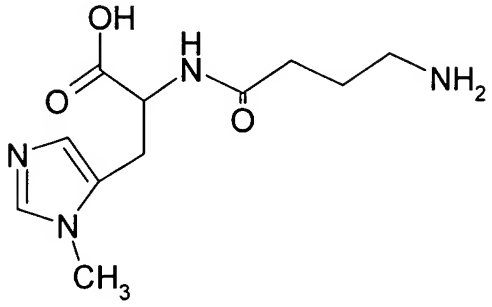
2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the precursor of B is selected from the following:

- aminoacids selected from the following: L-carnosine (formula CI), anserine (CII), selenocysteine (CIII), selenomethionine (CIV), penicillamine (CV),

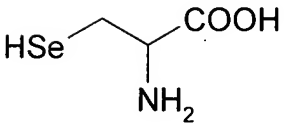
N-acetylpenicillamine (CVI), cysteine (CVII), N-acetylcysteine (CVIII), glutathione (CIX) or esters thereof



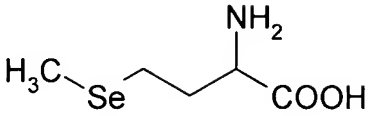
(CI)



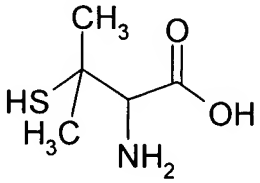
(CII)



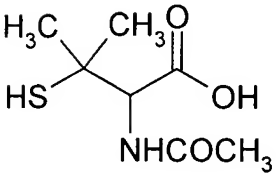
(CIII)



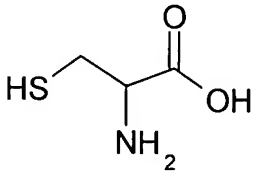
(CIV)



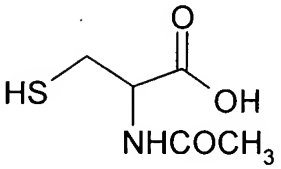
(CV)



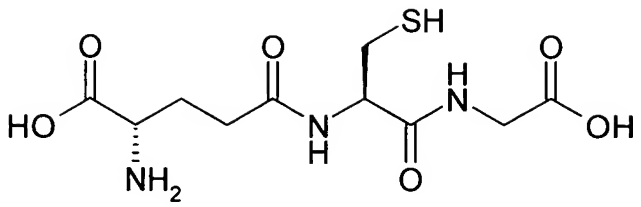
(CVI)



(CVII)



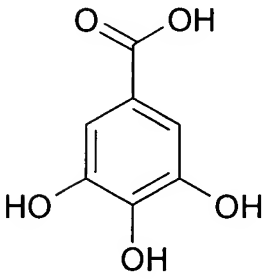
(CVIII)



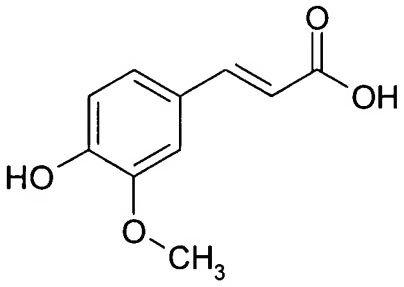
(CIX)

- hydroxyacids, selected from the following: gallic acid (formula DI), ferulic acid (DII), gentisic acid (DIII), citric acid (DIV), caffeic acid (DV), dihydrocaffeic acid (DVI), p-cumaric acid (DVII), vanillic acid (DVIII):

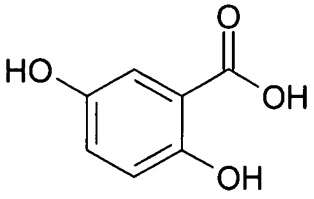
-



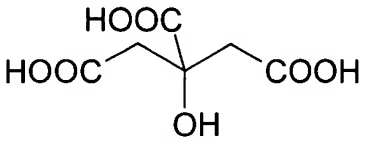
(DI)



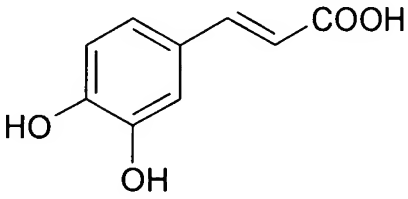
(DII)



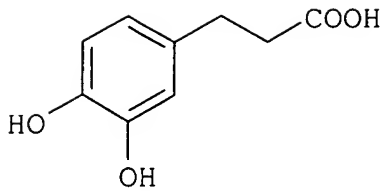
(DIII)



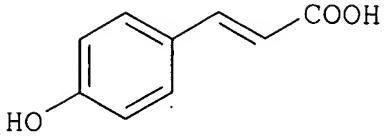
(DIV)



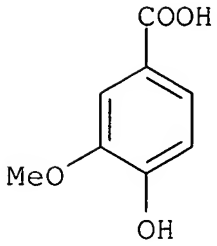
(DV)



(DVI)

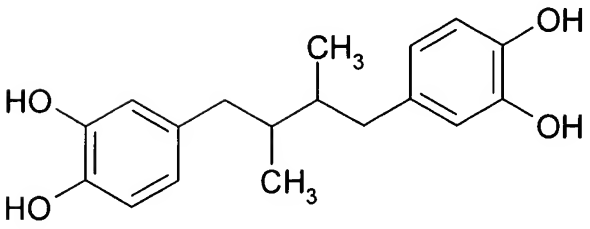


(DVII)

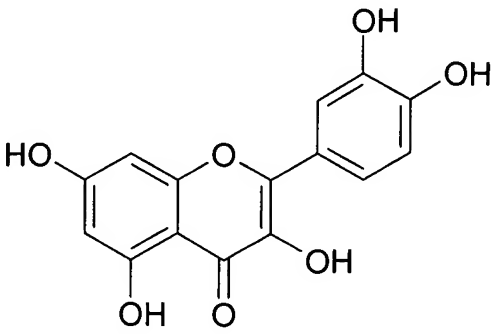


(DVIII)

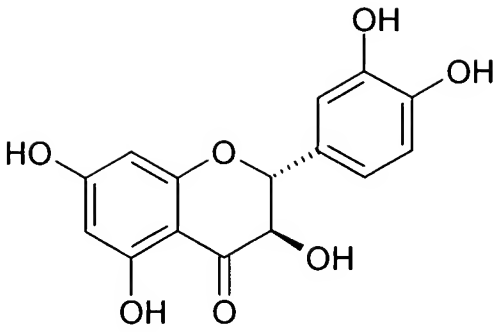
- aromatic and heterocyclic mono- and polyalcohols, selected from the following: nordihydroguaiaretic acid (EI), quercetin (EII), catekin (EIII), kaempferol (EIV), sulphurethyne (EV), hydroquinone (EVIII), gossypol (EIX), reductic acid (EX), methoxyhydroquinone (EXI), hydroxyhydroquinone (EXII), propyl gallate (EXIII), 3,5-di-ter-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl-thioglycolate (EXXIV), allopurinol (EXXXI); saccharose (EC), ascorbic (ECI) and isoascorbic acid (ECII), p-cumaric alcohol (ECIII), 4-hydroxy-phenylethylalcohol (ECIV), coniferyl alcohol (ECV):



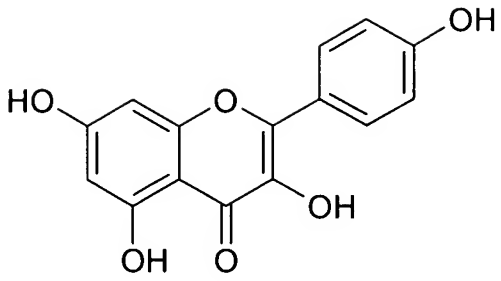
(EI)



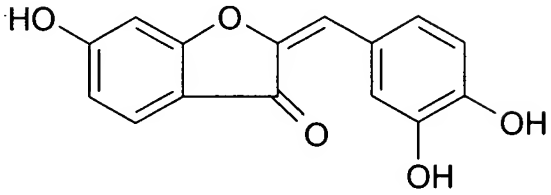
(EII)



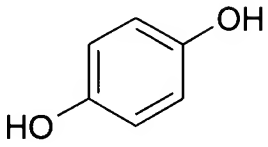
(EIII)



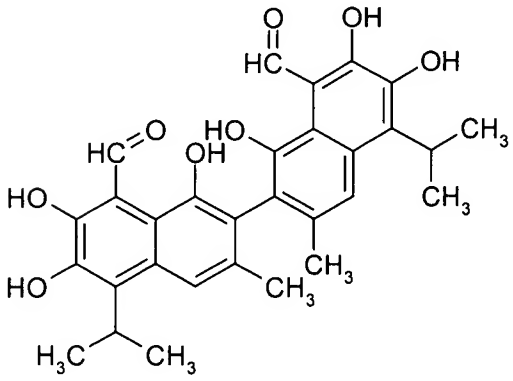
(EIV)



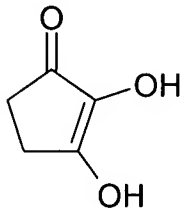
(EV)



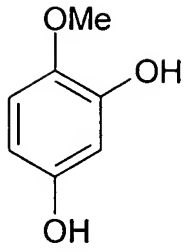
(EVIII)



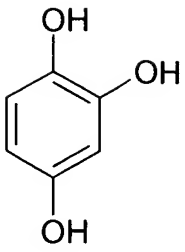
(EIX)



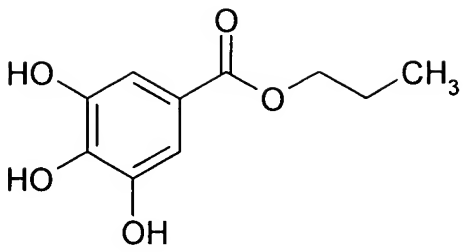
(EX)



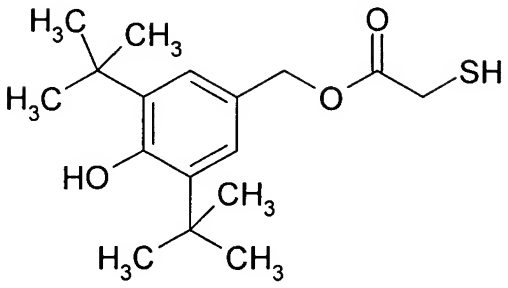
(EXI)



(EXII)

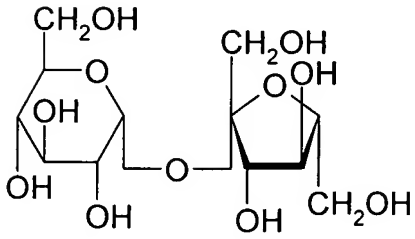


(EXIII)

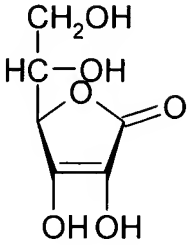


(EXXIV)

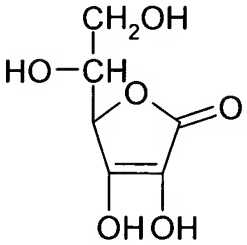
(EXXXI)



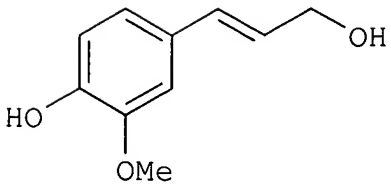
(EC)

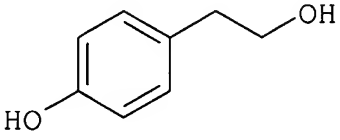


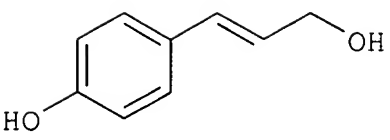
(ECI)



(ECII)

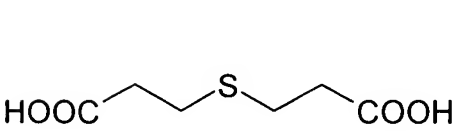




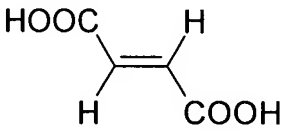


(ECIII) (ECIV) (ECV)

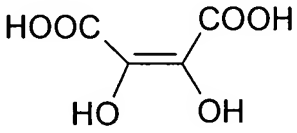
- compounds containing at least one free acid function, selected from the following: 3,3'-thiodipropionic acid (NI), fumaric acid (NII), dihydroxymaleic acid (NIII), edetic acid (NV):



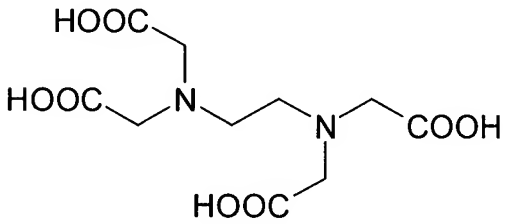
(NI)



(NII)



(NIII)



(NV)

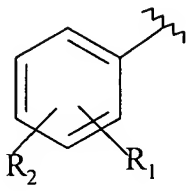
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein in the compounds of formula (I):

- when b0 = c0 = 1, the bonds between the drug radical and X_2 and between X_2 and Y are, independently the one from the other, of ester, thioester, amide type;
- when b0 = 0 and c0 = 1 the bond between the drug radical and Y is of ester, thioester, amide type.

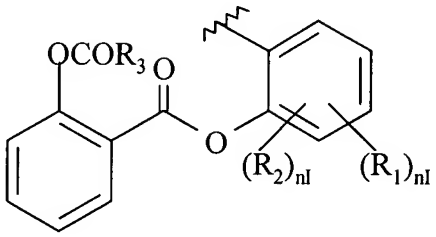
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the R radical is selected from the following groups:

Group I)

Ia)



Ib)



wherein:

R_1 is H or -$OCOR_3$; wherein R_3 is methyl, ethyl or C_3-C_5 linear or branched alkyl, or the residue of an heterocycle with only one ring having 5 or 6 atoms partially or totally hydrogenated, or aromatic, containing one or more heteroatoms independently selected from O, N and S;

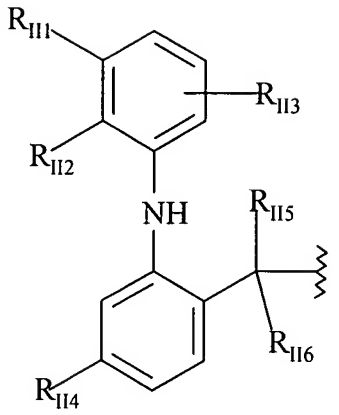
R_2 is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, C_1-C_4 linear or branched alkyl, C_1-C_4 linear or branched alkoxyl; a C_1-C_4 linear or branched perluoroalkyl; nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4}) alkylamino;

with the proviso that in formula Ia) R_1 and R_2 are not contemporaneously H;

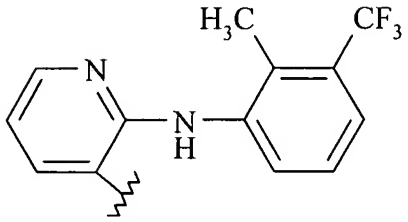
in formula Ib) nI is an integer 0 or 1;

Group II)

IIa)



IIb)



wherein:

R_{II5} is H, C_1-C_3 linear or branched alkyl;

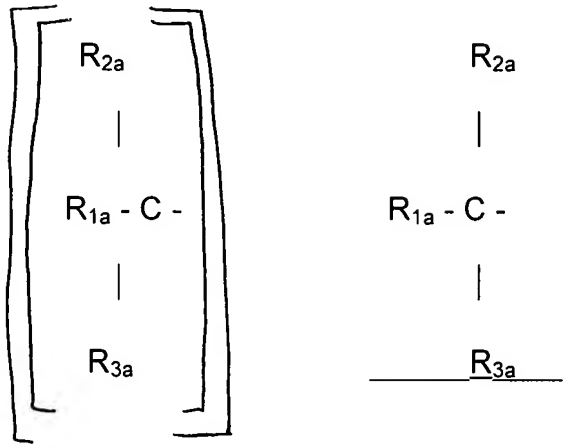
R_{II6} has the same meaning as R_{II5}, or when R_{II5} is H it is benzyl;

R_{II1}, R_{II2} and R_{II3} are independently hydrogen, C_1-C_6 linear or branched alkyl, or C_1-C_6 linear or branched alkoxy, or Cl, F, Br;

R_{II4} is R_{II1} or bromine;

IIb) is the residue of the 2-[(2-methyl-3-(trifluoro methyl)phenyl]amino]-3-pyridincarboxylic] acid when T_1 = -CO- and the free valence is saturated with OH

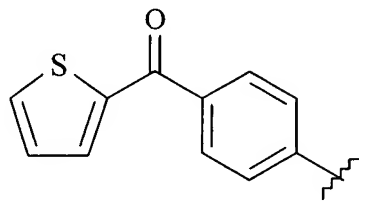
the compound is known as flunixin;



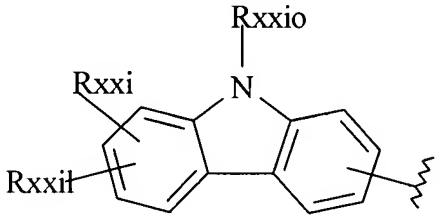
wherein:

R_{2a} and R_{3a} are H, C_1-C_{12} linear or branched, substituted or not, alkyl or allyl, with the proviso that when one of the two is allyl the other is H;

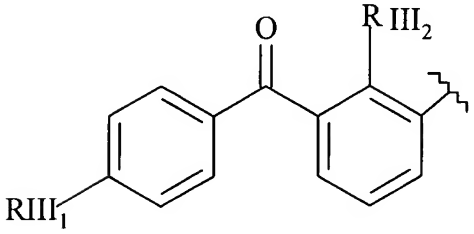
R_{1a} is selected from:



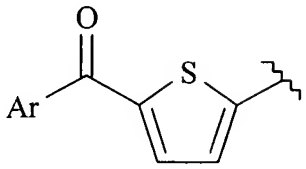
(II)



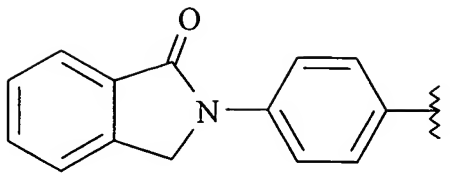
(XXI)



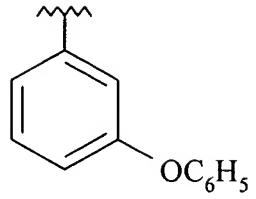
(IV)



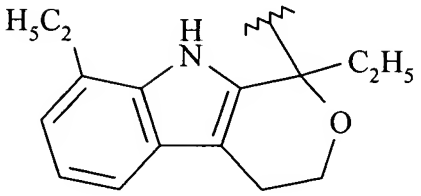
(XXXV)



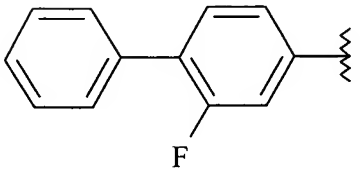
(VI)



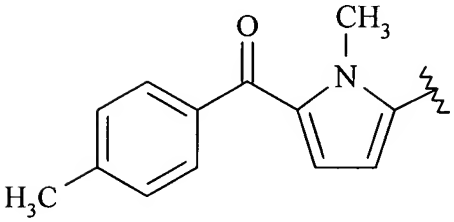
(VII)



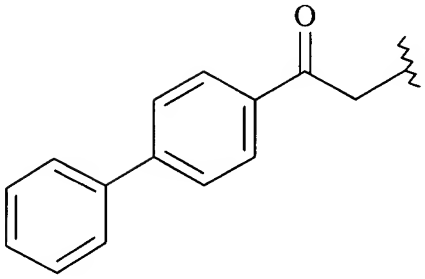
(VIII)



(IX)

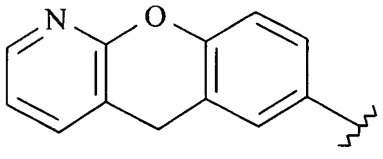


(X)

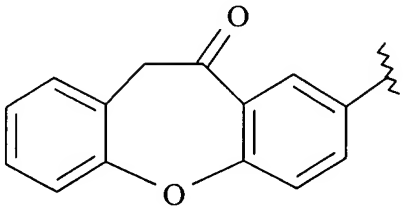


(III)

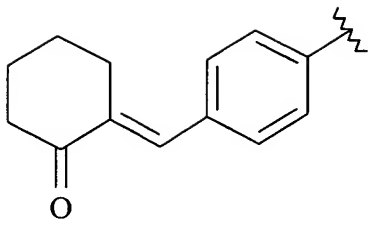
IIID) R_{1a} corresponds to the following formulas:



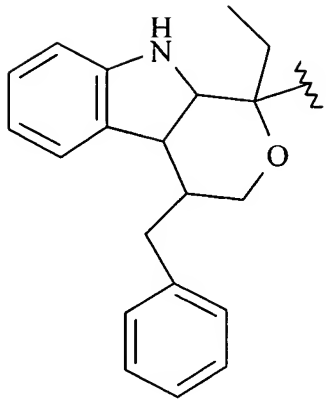
(IIIa)



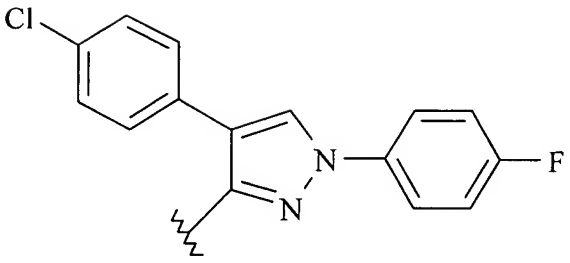
(XXX)



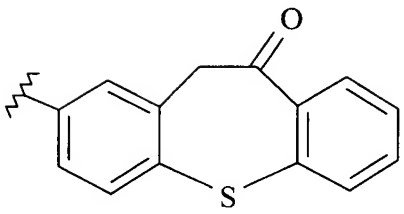
(XXXI)



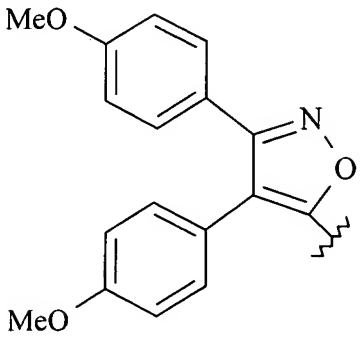
(XXXII)



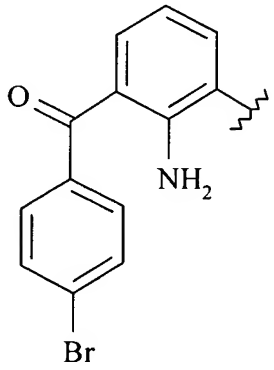
(XXXIII)



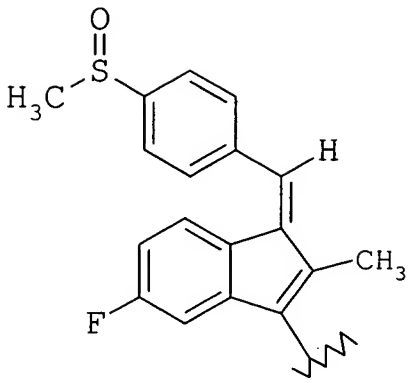
(XXXVI)



(XXXVII)



(XII)



(XXXX)

wherein the meanings are the following:

- when R_{1a} is as defined in formula (IV), Ketoprofen residue:

  R_{III1} is H, SR_{III3} wherein R_{III3} is C_1-C_4 linear or branched alkyl;

  R_{III2} is H, hydroxy;

- when R_{1a} is as defined in formula (XXI), carprofen residue:

  R_{xxio} is H, alkyl from 1 to 6 C atoms linear or branched, C_1-C_6 alkoxycarbonyl linked to a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 carboxyalkyl, C_1-C_6 alkanoyl, optionally substituted with halogens, benzyl or halobenzyl, benzoyl or halobenzoyl;

  R_{xxi} is H, halogen, hydroxy, CN, C_1-C_6 alkyl containing or not containing OH groups, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, acetyl, benzyloxy, SR_{xxi2} wherein R_{xxi2} is C_1-C_6 alkyl; C_1-C_3 perfluoroalkyl; C_1-C_6 carboxyalkyl containing or not containing OH groups, NO_2, amino; sulphamoyl, di-alkyl sulphamoyl with C_1-C_6 alkyl, or difluoroalkylsulphonyl with C_1-C_3 alkyl;

R_{xxi1} is halogen, CN, C_1-C_6 alkyl containing one or more OH groups, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, acetyl, acetamido, benzyloxy, SR_{III3} being R_{III3} as above, C_1-C_3 perfluoroalkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 carboxyalkyl, NO_2, amino, C_1-C_6 mono- or di-alkyl-amino; sulphamoyl, C_1-C_6 di-alkyl-sulphamoyl, or di-fluoroalkylsulphamoyl as above; or R_{xxi} together with R_{xxi1} is a C_1-C_6 alkylen-dioxy;

- when R_{1a} is as defined in formula (XXXV) tiaprofenic acid residue: Ar is phenyl, hydroxyphenyl optionally mono- or polysubstituted with halogen, alkanoyl and C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_1-C_6 trialkyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, heteroaryl, furyl containing or not containing OH, pyridyl;
- when R_{1a} is as defined in formula (II), suprofen residue, R_{3a} is H, R_{2a} is methyl and T_1 = -CO-;
- when R_{1a} is as defined in formula (VI), R is the residue of indoprofen when T_1 = -CO-, R_{2a} = H and $R_{3a} = CH_3$; of indobufen when R_{2a} is equal to H and $R_{3a} = C_2H_5$; T_1 = -CO-;
- when R_{1a} is as defined in formula (VIII), R is the etodolac residue when $R_{2a} = R_{3a}$ = H and T_1 = -CO-;
- when R_{1a} is as defined in formula (VII), R is the fenoprofen residue when R_{3a} = H, $R_{2a} = CH_3$ and T_1 = -CO-;
- when R_{1a} is as defined in formula (III), R is the fenbufen residue when $R_{2a} = R_{3a}$ = H and T_1 = -CO-;

- when R_{1a} is as defined in formula (IX), R is the flurbiprofen residue when R_{3a} = H, R_{2a} = CH_3, T_1 = -CO-;
- when R_{1a} is as defined in formula (X) R is the tolmetin residue when R_{2a} = R_{3a} = H, T_1 = -CO-.

In group IIID) R_{1a} corresponds to the following formulas:

- IIIa), when R_{2a} = H and R_{3a} = CH_3 the pranoprofen residue is obtained: α-methyl-5H-[1]benzopyran-[2,3-b]pyridin-7-acetic acid; ~~in the preferred compound R_{2a} = H, R_{3a} = CH_3, T_1 = -CO- and in the precursor the free valence is saturated with OH;~~
- (XXX), when R_{2a} = H and R_{3a} = CH_3 the bermoprofen residue is obtained: dibenz[b,f]oxepin-2-acetic acid; ~~in the preferred compound R_{2a} = H, R_{3a} = CH_3, T_1 = -CO-;~~
- (XXXI), when R_{2a} = H and R_{3a} = CH_3, R is the radical of the compound CS-670: 2-[4-(2-oxo-1-cyclohexyliden methyl) phenyl]propionic acid; ~~the preferred compound has R_{2a} = H, R_{3a} = CH_3, T_1 = -CO-;~~
- (XXXII), when R_{2a} = R_{3a} = H, the pemedolac residue is obtained; when R_{2a} = R_{3a} = H T_1 = -CO-;
- (XXXIII), when R_{2a} = R_{3a} = H, the pirazolac residue is obtained: 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-pyrazol acid derivatives; ~~the preferred compounds have R_{2a} = R_{3a} = H, T_1 = -CO-;~~
- (XXXVI), when R_{2a} = H, R_{3a} = CH_3 the zaltoprofen residue is obtained; when the residue is saturated with an hydroxyl or aminic group, or with the

carboxylic function the compounds are known as dibenzotiepin derivatives; ~~in the preferred compounds R_{2a} = H, R_{3a} = CH_3, T_1 = -CO-;~~

- (XXXVII), when R_{2a} = R_{3a} = H the mofezolac residue is obtained: 3,4-di(p-methoxyphenyl)isoxazol-5-acetic acid when the residue is CH_2-COOH; ~~in the preferred compounds R_{2a} = R_{3a} = H, T_1 = -CO-;~~
- (XII), when R_{2a} = R_{3a} = H the bromfenac residue is obtained: 2-amino-3-(4-bromobenzoyl)benzeneacetic acid; ~~the preferred compounds have T_1 = -CO-, R_{2a} = R_{3a} = H;~~
- (XXXX) when R_{2a} = R_{3a} = H the sulindac residue is obtained: (Z)-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1-[[4-(methyl sulphinyl) –phenyl]methylene]-1H-inden-3-acetic [[aid]] acid;

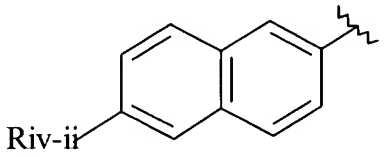
in Group IV) R is

$$\begin{array}{l} R_{IVd} \\ | \\ R_{IV} - C - \\ | \\ R_{IVd1} \end{array}$$

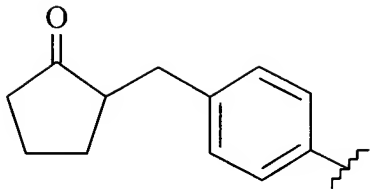
wherein:

R_{IVd} and R_{IVd1} are at least one H and the other an alkyl from C_1 to C_6 linear or branched, or difluoroalkyl with C_1-C_6 alkyl, or R_{IVd} and R_{IVd1} form together a methylene group;

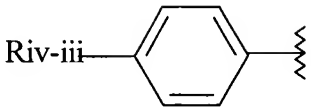
R_{IV} has the following meaning;



(IIB)



(XB)



(IIIB)

wherein the compounds of group IV) have the following meanings:

- in formula (IIB):

  R_{IV-ii} is C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, C_1-C_7 alkoxymethyl, C_1-C_3 trifluoroalkyl, vinyl, ethynyl, halogen, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, difluoroalkoxy with C_1-C_7 alkyl, C_1-C_7 alkoxymethyloxy, alkylthiomethyloxy with C_1-C_7 alkyl, alkyl methylthio with C_1-C_7 alkyl, cyano, difluoromethylthio, phenyl- or phenylalkyl substituted with the C_1-C_8 alkyl; T_1 = -CO-;

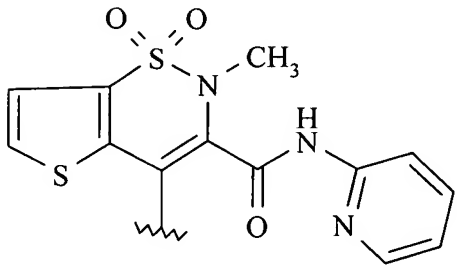
- in formula (XB), of which the loxoprofen residue has been indicated, the compounds wherein R_{IVd} is H and R_{IVd1} is CH_3;

- in formula (IIIB):

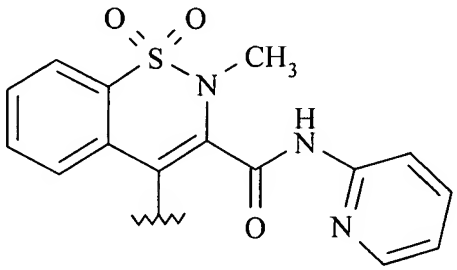
$R_{iV\text{-}iii}$ is a C_2-C_5 branched or not branched alkyl, C_2 and C_3 alkyloxy, allyloxy, phenoxy, phenylthio, cycloalkyl from 5 to 7 C atoms, optionally substituted in position 1 by a C_1-C_2 alkyl;

and R_{IVd} = H, R_{IVd1} is CH_3, compound known as ibuprofen residue, T_1 = -CO-;

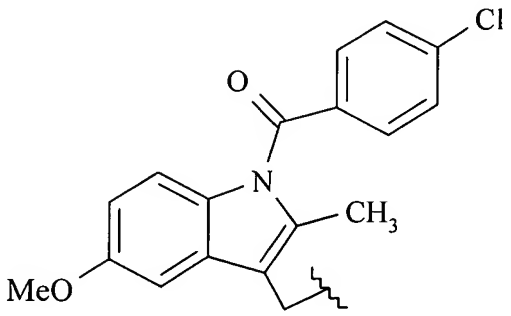
Group V)



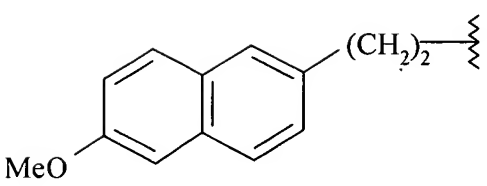
(VIIC)

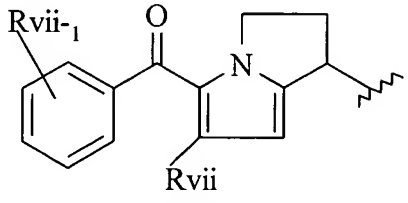


(IXC)



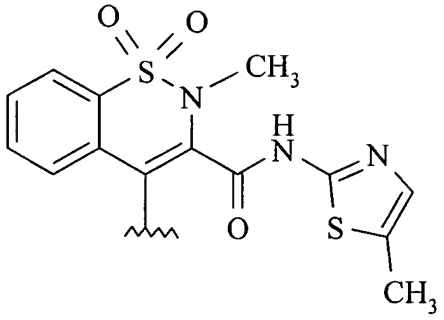
(IVC)



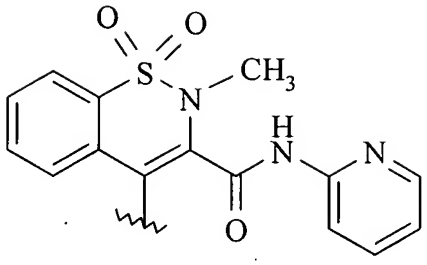


(IIIC) (IIC)

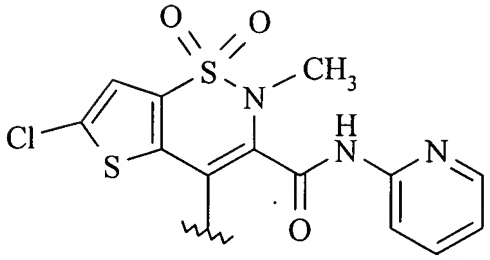
Group VE)



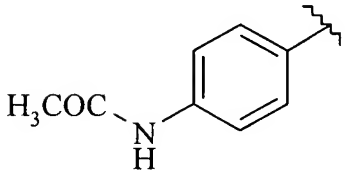
(XC)



(XI)



(XIII)



(XXXXV)

In group V), the compounds have the following meanings:

- when R is the formula (IIC),

  R_{Vii} is H or a C_1-C_4 linear or branched alkyl;

  R_{Vii-1} is R_{Vii}, or C_1-C_4 linear or branched alkoxy; Cl, F, Br; the position of R_{Vii-1} being ortho, or meta, or para;

- when R is the formula (VIIC),

  of which the tenoxicam residue has been indicated, T_1 = -O-;

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- when R is the formula (IXC),

  wherein T_1 = -O-, the piroxicam residue has been indicated;

- when R is the formula (IIIC),

  wherein T_1 = -CO-, of which the nabumetone residue has been indicated;

- when R is the formula (IVC),

  wherein T_1 = -CO-, of which the indomethacin residue has been indicated;

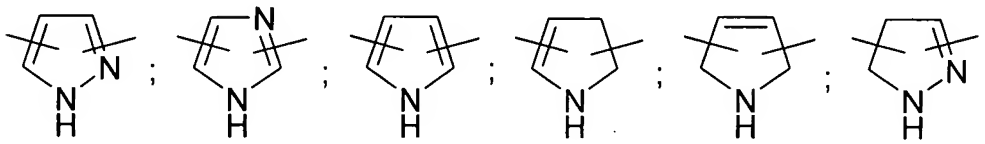
- when R is the formula (XC), the residue X is known as meloxicam; ~~the preferred compounds are those in which T_1 = -CO-;~~

- when R is the formula (XI) the residue is known as ampiroxicam when the termination is $-CH(CH_3)OCOC_2H_5$; ~~the preferred compounds have T_1 = -CO-;~~

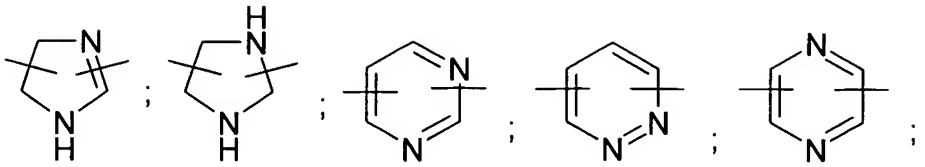
- when R is the formula (XIII) and the valence is saturated with H, the residue derives from lornoxicam; ~~the preferred compounds have T_1 = -O-;~~

- when R is the formula (XXXXV), T_1 = -O- and the valence is saturated with H, the compound known as paracetamol is obtained.

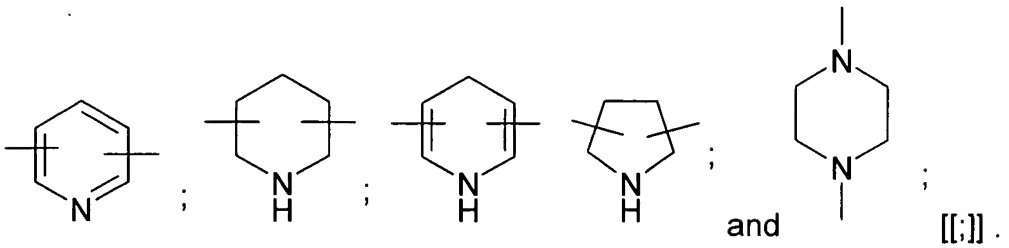
5. (Withrdawn) The method of claim 1, wherein in the compounds of formula (I) Y^3 of formula (III^P) of C is selected from the following bivalent radicals:



(Y1) (Y2) (Y3) (Y4) (Y5) (Y6)



(Y7) (Y8) (Y9) (Y10) (Y11)



(Y12) (Y13) (Y14) (Y15) (Y16)

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein Y^3 is selected from the following: (Y12) with the two free valences in the ortho positions with respect to the nitrogen atom; (Y16) with the two valences linked to the two heteroatoms, Y1 (pyrazol) 3,5-disubstituted.

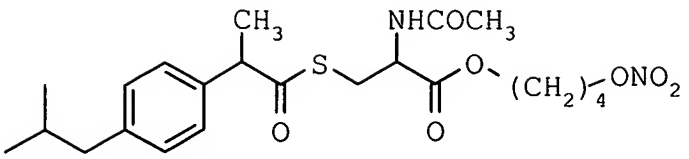
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the compounds or salts thereof of formula (I) are selected from the group consisting of:

2-acetyloxybenzoic acid 3-nitrooxymethyl phenyl ester (I^C);

2-fluoro-alpha-methyl[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-acetic acid 4-ni-trooxy butylester (II^C);

2-[(2,6-dichlorophenyl)amino]benzenacetic acid 4-ni-trooxy butyl ester (III^C);

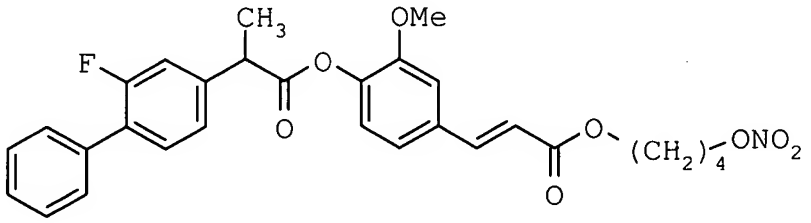
(S)-N-acetyl-[alpha-methyl-4-(2-methylpropyl)benzen-acetyl] cysteine 4-nitrooxybutylester having formula:



(IV^C)

4-nitrooxybutanoic acid 4-acetylaminophenylester (V^C);

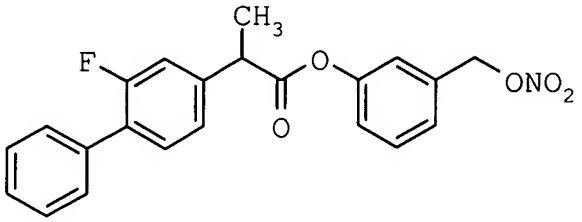
trans-3-[4-[2-fluoro-alpha-methyl(1,1'-biphenyl)-4-acetyloxy]-3-methoxyphenyl]-2-propenoic acid 4-(nitrooxy) butyl ester, having formula:



;

(VI^C)

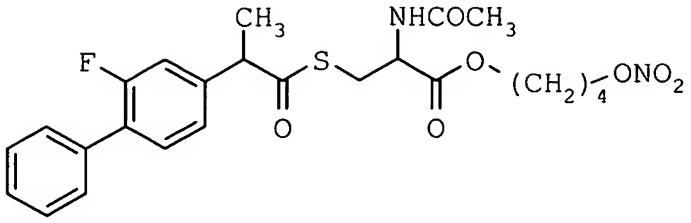
2-Fluoro-alpha-methyl[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-acetic acid 3-(ni-trooxymethyl)phenyl ester having formula:



;

(VII^C)

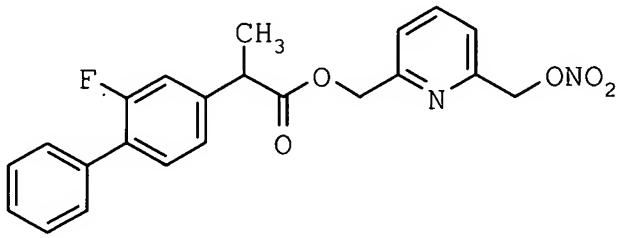
(S)-N-acetyl-[2-fluoro-alpha-methyl(1,1'-biphenyl)-4-acetyl] cysteine 4-(nitrooxy)butyl ester having formula:



;

(VIII^C)

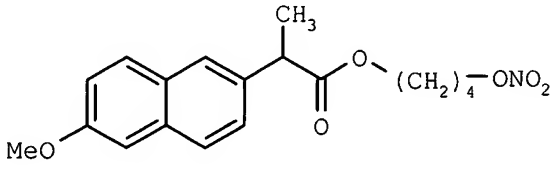
2-Fluoro-alpha-methyl[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-acetic acid 6-(nitrooxy methyl)-2-methylpyridyl ester having formula



;

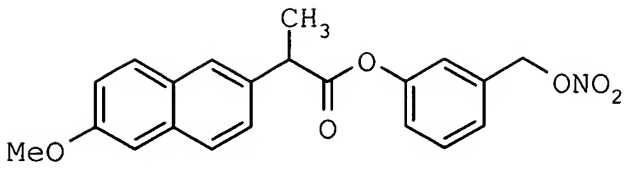
(XI^C)

(S)-6-methoxy-alpha-methyl-2-naphthalenacetic acid 4-(nitrooxy)butyl ester having formula :



(X^C);

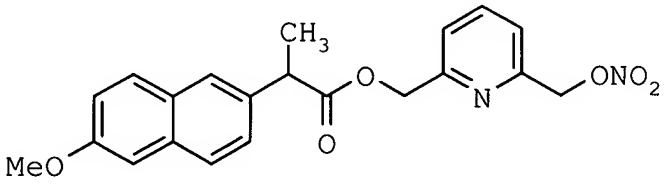
(S)-6-methoxy-alpha-methyl-2-naphthalenacetic acid 3-(nitrooxymethyl)phenyl ester having formula:



;

(XI^B)

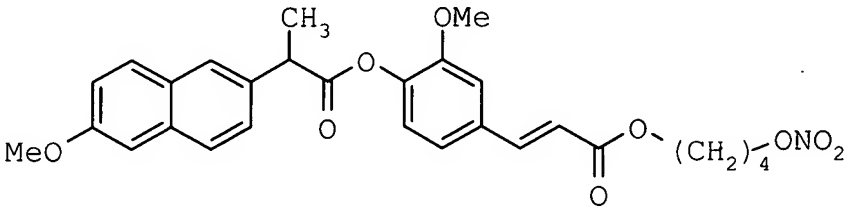
(S)-6-methoxy-alpha-methyl-2-naphthalenacetic acid 6-(nitrooxymethyl)-2-methylpyridyl ester having formula:



;

(XII^C)

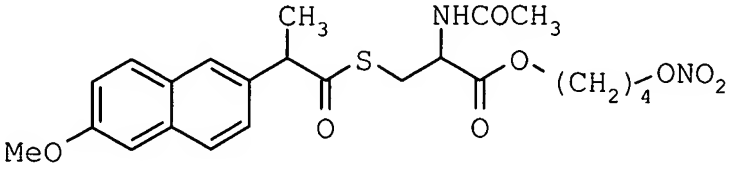
trans-3-[4-[6-methoxy-alpha-methyl-2-naphthalenacetyl oxy]-3-methoxyphenyl]-2-propenoic acid 4-(nitrooxy)butyl ester having formula:



;

(XIII^C)

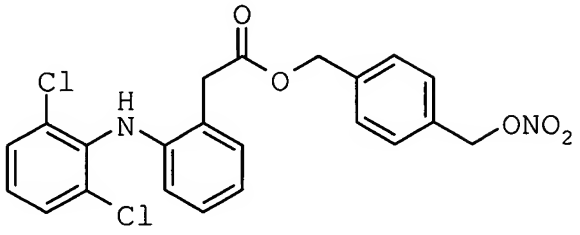
(S,S)-N-acetyl-S-(6-methoxy-alpha-methyl-2-naphthaleneacetyl) cysteine 4-(nitrooxy)butyl ester having formula:



;

(XIV^C)

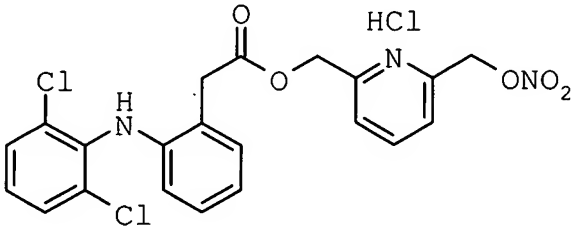
2-[(2,6-dichlorophenyl)amino]benzenacetic acid 4-(nitrooxy methyl)phenylmethyl ester having formula:



;

(XV^C)

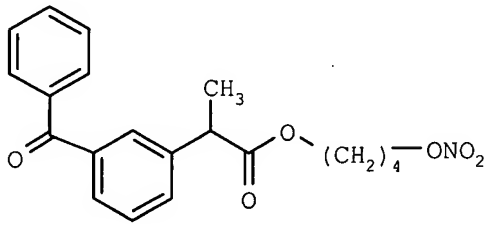
2-[(2,6-dichlorophenyl)amino]benzenacetic acid 6-(nitrooxymethyl)-2-methylpyridyl hydrochloride ester having formula:



;

(XVI^C)

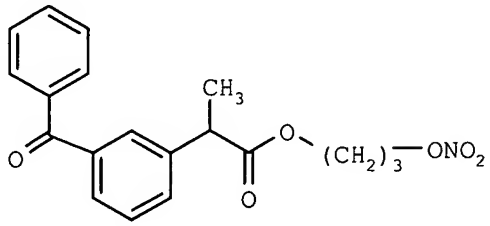
(S)-3-benzoyl-alpha-methyl-benzenacetic acid 4-(nitro oxybutyl) ester having formula:



;

(XVII^C)

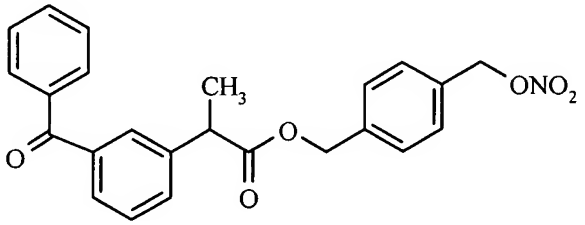
(S)-3-benzoyl-alpha-methyl-benzenacetic acid 3-(nitro oxypropyl) ester having formula:



;

(XVIII^C)

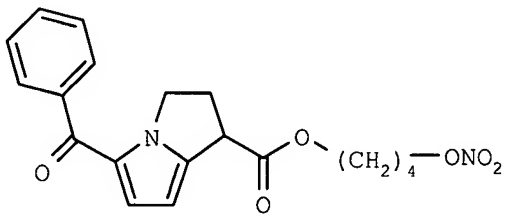
(S)-3-benzoyl-alpha-methyl-benzenacetic 4-(nitro oxymethyl) phenylmethyl ester having formula:



;

(XIX^C)

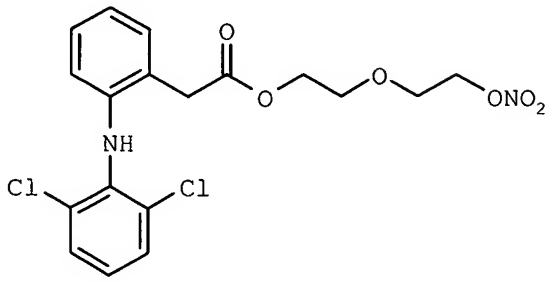
5-benzoyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolizine-1-carboxylic acid 4-(nitrooxy)butyl ester having formula:



;

(XXI^C)

2-[(2,6-dichlorophenyl)amino]benzenacetic acid 5 (nitro oxy)ethyloxyethyl ester having formula:



(XX^C)

1-(4-Chlorobenzoyl)-5-methoxy-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-acetic acid 3-(nitrooxymethyl)phenyl ester (XXI^C).

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the compounds or salts thereof of formula (I) are administered by oral, parenteral or topical administration.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein relapses of degenerative effects on cartilaginoid matrix in subjects with arthritis are prevented.